defined protocols developed within the regulatory framework provided by the Environment Protection Act, 1986 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The regulatory procedure for safety of assessment of genetically modified seeds as provided in the Environment Protection Act, 1986, comprises a three-tier mechanism to assess and ensure bio-safety of genetic modifications, which include import, export, manufacture, sale and distribution of Genetically Modified food products in the country. Till date, no seed of any genetically modified variety has been cleared by the Government for commercialisation.

Development of horticulture and plantation crops

1372. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Schemes undertaken by the Government to provide opportunities for production and development of both horticulture and plantation crops to the growers;

(b) what are the specific plan schemes of each of the crops identified for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the expected production target for each crop during the current year crop-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government is providing assistance for the production of horticulture as well plantation crops like cashew and cocoa under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. Besides, the National Horticulture Board is providing assistance for cultivation and post harvest management under the scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Post Harvest Management. The Coconut Development Board is providing assistance to the farmers under their scheme on Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India. Moreover,

the Tea Board, Coffee Board and Rubber Board under the Ministry of Commerce is providing assistance for the development of plantation crops like tea, coffee and rubber.

(c) Annual Production targets for most of the horticultural crops are not being fixed. However, the estimated production targets of tea, coffee and rubber for the year 2001-2002 is 875,300 and 643 million kilograms respectively.

Planning for natural disaster

1373. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the earthquake and cyclone prone areas in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government have made/are making long-term planning to face such natural disasters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Institutional arrangements exist for natural disaster management at the National, State and District levels. The mechanism for financing of relief expenditure is governed by the recommendations of Finance Commissions appointed quinquennially. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the nature, intensity and impact of the natural disasters.

Rise and decline in production of agricultural products

†1374. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of agricultural products came down during 2000-2001, in comparison to 1999-2000;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.